

AUGUST 11, 2015

**CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

7:00 P.M.

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mayor Hagan, with Councilors Ferguson, Drexel, Morrison, and Schwartz present along with City Attorney Fogo, Acting City Manager Westbay, City Clerk Davidson, Finance Director Cowan, IT Administrator Lee, and a couple citizens. City Manager Coleman was out of town. A Council quorum was present.

**Consideration of Minutes of July 28, 2015, Regular Session Meeting.**

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Drexel seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of July 28, 2015, as presented.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Drexel, Hagan, Morrison, Schwartz. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Pre-Scheduled Citizens: One Valley Prosperity Project/Better Cities Programs Presentation - Gunnison County Community Development Representatives Russell Forrest and Cathie Pagano.** Mr. Forrest and Ms. Pagano addressed Council. Mr. Forrest gave an overview to date of the One Valley Property Project (OVPP). A US Department of Commerce Grant is facilitating the participation of 'Better Cities' as a consultant on the project. Over 1300 residents have participated thus far through one-on-one meetings, focus groups, or through surveys. The OVPP is approximately half way through the 4-phase process. Seven Values were determined through the process and it revealed that quality of life ranked higher than the economic priorities. Economic issues defined included the need for employment opportunities, making a livable wage, and the need for affordable housing. Respondents wanted to maintain a strong sense of community, develop a real college town feel, and create a year-round economy. Responses revealed there are similar values up and down Valley and this was across all age groups. Mr. Forrest and Ms. Pagano discussed the "State of the Valley" report. The Valley has competitive advantages including CBMR, WSCU, natural attractions, trail systems but we also have distances to other economic centers, real estate costs are high and broadband speed/capacity is not adequate to attract some businesses. A Valley group of 5 business entities comprised of Ian Billick, WSCU, GVH, CBMR and Dick Bratton, are known as the keystone group and are working on developing potential outcomes with Matthew Godfrey of Better Cities. The top three proposed priorities for the Valley are: development of an Innovation/ Entrepreneurial Center (ICE) House at WSCU and downtown; developing a downtown Gunnison Renaissance to attract new businesses and visitors; and use the health system to enhance high altitude training and medical related tourism. The downtown renaissance would create a "Visual Story" about why people should want to stop downtown. It would encourage people to want to be and live here. A feasibility qualitative and quantitative study needs to be done to make the project acceptable to both the private and public sectors. The project could drive jobs and the economy in Gunnison. The OVPP group is looking for input, hopefully tonight, from City Council on what their priorities are. They are not asking for financial support this evening. Discussion ensued. Topics included: economic sustainability of the project in times of economic downturn; the differing definitions of prosperity; keeping what is there already; the importance of an economic analysis on the project; the project could lead to future grant opportunities for businesses; the use of federal dollars for the project and the need to include the project in the City's strategic planning document. Council thanked Mr. Forrest and Ms. Pagano for their presentation.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**Possible Council Action on Better Cities Program City Priority.** Following discussion on the three proposed priorities presented by Better Cities, the Mayor asked if Council would like to select their priorities.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Morrison seconded the motion to support the first two Better Cities priorities; those being the ICE House proposal and the downtown renaissance project.

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Hagan, Morrison, Schwartz, Ferguson. So carried

Roll call vote, no: None.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015 City Financials Update (discussion item only).** Finance Director Cowan addressed Council and reviewed the Financial report. Topics discussed included the following: financial departures from the adopted 2015 budget including the purchase of the Lazy-K property; we now stand at a 32% fund balance which is lower than proposed; the investment report review; the City check register that is open for inspection at any time; the purchase card report that allows for checks and balances for expenditures; sales tax is trending strong with an overall 5.6% year-to-date increase over projections; and the revenue and expenditure reports for every fund. Councilor Schwartz asked about the contra-cost allocation and Finance Director Cowan explained that it is shared costs by all department funds for services generated by the General Fund. A short discussion on reinvestments of the interest returns from the cd's, which is extremely low, ensued. Council thanked Director Cowan for the detailed report.

**Ordinance and Resolutions:**

**Ordinance No. 9, Series 2015; Re: Amendment to Chapter 12 GMC Utilities, Re: Unpaid Utility Charges Lien Process; 2nd Reading.** Councilor Ferguson introduced Ordinance No. 9, Series 2015, and it was read by title only by the City Attorney.

City Attorney Fogo informed Council the Ordinance under consideration is amended from the Ordinance passed on first reading. At the recommendation of the Finance Director, the lien process for electric utility services was removed from the Ordinance because there is no specific statutory authority to lien for non-payment of electric service. The City currently turns the power off and then any deposit or payment is first utilized for the electric service cost and then the other utility costs. There was a citizen concern about the legality of the electric service non-payment lien process. The City will continue to collect non-paid service costs through the State of Colorado.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Schwartz seconded the initial motion and the amended motion that Ordinance No. 9, Series 2015, **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO, AMENDING TITLE 12 UTILITIES, CHAPTER 12.40 UTILITY SERVICE RATES AND FEES, RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 12.40.030 RULES AND REGULATIONS, H. LIEN ON PREMISES AND CHAPTER 12.60 GARBAGE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SYSTEM, SECTION 12.60.120 PAYMENT OF CHARGES – WHEN DUE – DELINQUENCIES – LIEN**, be introduced, read, passed and adopted as amended on second and final reading this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Hagan, Morrison, Schwartz, Ferguson. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**City Attorney Kathleen Fogo:** informed Council the Board of County Commissioners discussed the proposed November Election ballot question regarding opting out of SB-152. The BOCC has decided to move forward with a ballot question in the November 3, 2015, Coordinated Election. They are still discussing payment of the municipality costs. County Community Development Director Forrest indicated the BOCC has determined they will pay the incremental costs on the ballot. Since the City of Gunnison will not have any other ballot question, there will be no cost to the City. The County will develop an IGA with the City regarding the County paying the election cost. The County Attorney is also working on consistent ballot language for all of the entities regarding opting out of SB05-152.

**City Manager: Ken Coleman** was absent.

**Acting City Manager: Community Development Director Steve Westbay:** informed Council his Department continues to work on the River Restoration Project and he is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the project's potential impact on sage grouse. The USFWS have determined there will be no impact. His department also continues to work with marijuana establishment applicants.

Community Development Director Westbay then informed Council the County is working on a GOCO Grant Application for the Inspire Initiative Program. They are looking to re-energize the Discovery Center on the Gunnison Rising Property as a way to educate and connect children with

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the value of the outdoors in the Valley. There will be phase to the grant; the planning phase and then the hard dollar phase for capital improvements. The grant application is due August 26<sup>th</sup>. The County is looking for a letter of support for the grant application. Director Westbay placed a draft letter on Council's desks this evening.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Drexel seconded the motion to approve the letter of support for the Gunnison County GOCO Inspire Initiative Grant application and to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Roll call vote, yes: Morrison, Schwartz, Ferguson, Drexel, Hagan. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**City Clerk: Gail Davidson** reported the City has received three marijuana establishment applications for retail stores from the State Marijuana Enforcement Division. Those applications are now being reviewed by City Staff.

**Non-Scheduled Citizens:** None.

**City Council Discussion, Meeting Reports, Items for Work Session:**

**Councilor Ferguson:** reported he attended a meeting with Senator Corey Gardner this afternoon. It was a Rural Economic Roundtable and a wide variety of topics were discussed. State and local control over endangered species management was one of the topics. Councilor Morrison was in attendance as well. The meeting was well attended.

**Councilor Morrison:** reported at the Economic Roundtable meeting WSCU President Salsbury stated there is a need for internships for University students to gain valuable experience in the real world. There is also a need for educating the future workforce. Other topics included CDOT/transportation issues and the need for regional broadband expansion. Councilor Morrison then informed Council a new date for the Highway Safety Planning meeting has been set for September 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6pm at the Fred Field Center. The demonstration project will be presented to the community to give input and feedback.


**Mayor Pro Tem Drexel:** informed Council Region 10 received a letter from DOLA stating that they had awarded the Region 10 Broadband Phase I project \$5 million+.

**Councilor Schwartz** – had no report this evening.

**Mayor Hagan:** reported he didn't attend any meetings and he too had nothing to report.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Hagan called for any further discussion from Council, staff or the public, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

  
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 Mayor

  
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 City Clerk